Impact of price hike of rice, wheat, sugar and LPG upon the weaker sections

653. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have caused any survey about the possible impact of the recent increases in the prices of items under the Public Distribution system, such as rice, wheat, sugar and LPG on an average family especially those on the weaker sections;

(b) if so, what were the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise

Consumer Welfare Fund

654. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the parliamentary Committee on Civil Supplies has expressed distress at the fact that the consumer welfare fund has not become operational as yet;

(b) if so, what were the precise reasons for delay in establishing the fund and making it operational; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to implement the recommendations of the committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Standing Parliamentary Committee on Civil Supplies and Public Distribution, in its third report, has expressed concern that the Consumer Welfare Fund has not been made operational. The Fund could not be made operational earlier as the Consumer Welfare Fund Rules, 1992 were being amended by Ministry of Finance for making them more broad based. The amended Rules have since been notified and the Consumer Welfare Fund has become operational.

Marked Prices on packed consumer goods

655. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article in the Times of India of 11th February, 1994 conveying that marked prices on the packed goods is proving costlier for the consumers, and these prices leave a very high margin of profit for the dealers; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that manufacturers mark reasonable prices on the Packed goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN

(b) The Ministry called for the views of various organisations on the best and logical method of declaring the sale price on the package so that interest of all sections of the society including the consumers are well protected. A number of comments have been received and a committee has been constituted to study the issue in detail.

656. [Transferred to 4th March, 1994]

Strike in Coal Industry

657. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the five Central Trade Unions called for a token strike in coal industry on 31st January last to press for their ten point charter of demands including the implementation of pension scheme in full with effect from April, 1989;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of informal and formal discussions between the coal companies and the five trade unions, four unions viz. INTUC, AITUC, HMS & BMS decided to defer the strike to 14.2.94. Subsequently a meeting was held with the representatives of these four unions by the Minister of Labour and they withdrew the strike call. The unions affiliated to CITU served their strike notice in different subsidiary companies on 14.1.94 and resorted to the Strike on 31.1.94.

Budgetary allocation to Coal Sectors

658. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation made by Government to Coal Sectors during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any external assistance was also sought during the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c). The budgetary allocations made by the Government in Coal Sector and External Assistance which was routed through the budget during each of the last three years viz., 1990-91 to 1992-93 were as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

	Gross budget Support	External Assistance routed through Budget
1990-91	896.00	349.00
1991-92	648.00	159.50
1992-93	600.00	377.00

The Indian Coal Industry presently gets technical/financial co-operation from France, Germany, United Kingdom (UK), Canada, Australia, Erstwhile USSR and Poland.

The primary objective of seeking collaboration in coal Sector is to :—

(i) Procure sophisticated high capacity equipments including machinery for mining.

(ii) acquire and absorb modern mining technology;

(iii) train personnel in the improved techniques.